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For Immediate Release

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Crime Commission Receiving ARRA Funding

Nebraska will receive two grants through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for state programs under the Victims of Crime Act. The Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (Crime Commission) will administer the funding to organizations providing support for victims in the state.

The state expects to receive \$618,000 in ARRA funding for victim assistance efforts as part of the Victims of Crime Assistance (VOCA) program. Funding is used to provide direct services to the victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, drunk driving, homicide, and other crimes. The funding represents roughly 28 percent of the program funding received during FY 2008.

Michael Behm, Crime Commission Executive Director, said, “VOCA Recovery Act funds support efforts which responds to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims by assisting victims and their families. It also helps to stabilize their lives and to better understand how they can be part of the criminal justice system. These services provide victims of crime with a measure of safety and security.”

In addition, ARRA funding is expected to provide an additional \$15,663 for victim compensation efforts in Nebraska, which represents about 65 percent of the funding received for the program during FY 2008.

VOCA Victim Compensation funds offer compensation to victims and survivors for medical expenses, mental health counseling and care, loss of wages and funeral expenses. In Nebraska, several organizations used the funding to provide direct advocacy to victims, including Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Programs, Victim Assistance Units of several local police departments and county attorney’s offices, the state’s seven Child Advocacy Centers, the VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) statewide hotline, and the Court Appointed Special Advocate program.